

Appln No. 09/619,553

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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 13 and ending at page 13, line 7 of the specification with the paragraph shown below:

Figs. 3A and 3B show a broadcast/multipoint network and a point-to-point network, respectively, for use with the present invention. In Fig. 3A, representative nodes 205a, 205b, 205c are communicatively coupled with a common transmission medium 250 through individual segments 240a, 240b, 240c respectively. Thus, a message containing a broadcast destination address sent from one node is sent to all other nodes coupled with transmission medium 250. In Fig. 3B, nodes 205d, 205e, 205f are communicatively coupled to each other by individual segments 260d, 260e, 260f respectively of transmission media and hub 255. Messages sent from one node to another node on one segment are not visible to nodes on other segments unless they are retransmitted by a node that is connected to multiple segments, such as hub 255 in a network. Segments ~~260a, 260b, 260c~~ 240a, 240b, 240c and common transmission medium 250 may be (but are not restricted to) a phone line, a power line, a wireless medium, coaxial cable, or a fiber optic medium. Reference to Figs. 3A and 3B should be made with respect to the description of the embodiments of the invention as set forth below.